

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of immobilizing an oligonucleotide to a solid support surface capable of interacting with the oligonucleotide, which method comprises the steps of:

complexing the oligonucleotide with a solution containing cationic detergents, said cationic detergents capable of forming a dissociable complex with the oligonucleotide,

contacting the complex formed with the solid support surface which comprises a covalently linked carboxymethyl-modified dextran polymer hydrogel and further comprises one member of a specific binding pair, to thereby bind the oligonucleotide to the surface through the other member of the binding pair which is conjugated to or part of the oligonucleotide,

dissociating the complex, and

removing the cationic detergents from the solid support surface to leave the oligonucleotide immobilized on the surface;

wherein the oligonucleotide and the solid support surface each carry a negative charge.

Claims 2-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein binding of the oligonucleotide to the surface causes at least partial dissociation of the complex.

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is an artificial oligonucleotide.

Claims 14-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the surface-bound member is avidin or streptavidin, and the oligonucleotide is biotin-tagged.

Claims 18-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 ~~claim 20~~, wherein the carboxymethyl groups are activated to reactive groups.

Claims 22-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is carried out in a flow cell.

Claim 26 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid support is a sensor surface.

Claim 27 (original): The method according to claim 26, wherein the sensor surface permits detection of events at the surface by mass-sensing.

Claim 28 (original): The method according to claim 27, wherein the mass-sensing comprises evanescent wave sensing.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the evanescent wave sensing is surface plasmon resonance.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid support is a chromatographic particle.

Claims 31-35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (withdrawn): A method for assaying a sample for at least one analyte, which

method comprises contacting the sample with a solid support surface sensitized with at least one analyte-binding ligand by the method according to claim 31, and detecting binding of the analyte to the surface.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A method for studying analyte-ligand binding interactions, which method comprises contacting at least one analyte with a solid support surface sensitized with at least one analyte-binding ligand by the method according to claim 31, and studying binding interactions between analyte and ligand at the surface.

Claims 38-44 (cancelled)